
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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State Party

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

State, Province or Region

Mandalay Region and Magway Region

Name of Property

Bagan

Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

The serial property comprises 8 components. The geographical coordinates of the property central point to the nearest second are 21° 9' 36" North and 94° 52' 33" East, and the components lie between 21° 5' 30" and 21° 14' 22" North and 94° 46' 46" and 94° 58' 28" East.

Table 1. Geographical Coordinates of Component Parts to the Nearest Second

ID No.	Name of the Component Part	Region(s)/ District(s)	Coordinates of the Central Point	Area of Nominated Component of the Property (ha)	Area of the Buffer Zone (ha)	Map No.
1.	Component 1	Mandalay Region	E 94° 53' 4" N 21° 8' 56"	4,126.39	17,821.97	BGNch1_02jpg
2.	Component 2	Mandalay Region	E 94° 55' 24" N 21° 11' 54"	212.27		BGNch1_03jpg
3.	Component 3	Mandalay Region	E 94° 57' 51" N 21° 6' 45"	13.61		BGNch1_04jpg
4.	Component 4	Mandalay Region	E 94° 56' 56" N 21° 6' 52"	459.05		BGNch1_05jpg
5.	Component 5	Mandalay Region	E 94° 55' 34" N 21° 8' 14"	25.21		BGNch1_06jpg
6.	Component 6	Mandalay Region	E 94° 52' 2" N 21° 7' 57"	1.74		BGNch1_07jpg
7.	Component 7	Mandalay Region	E 94° 51' 50" N 21° 7' 46"	7.88		BGNch1_08jpg
8.	Component 8	Magway Region	E 94° 47' 29" N 21° 9' 18"	141.73		BGNch1_09jpg
Total area (ha)				4,987.88	17,821.97	

Textual description of the boundary(ies) of the nominated property

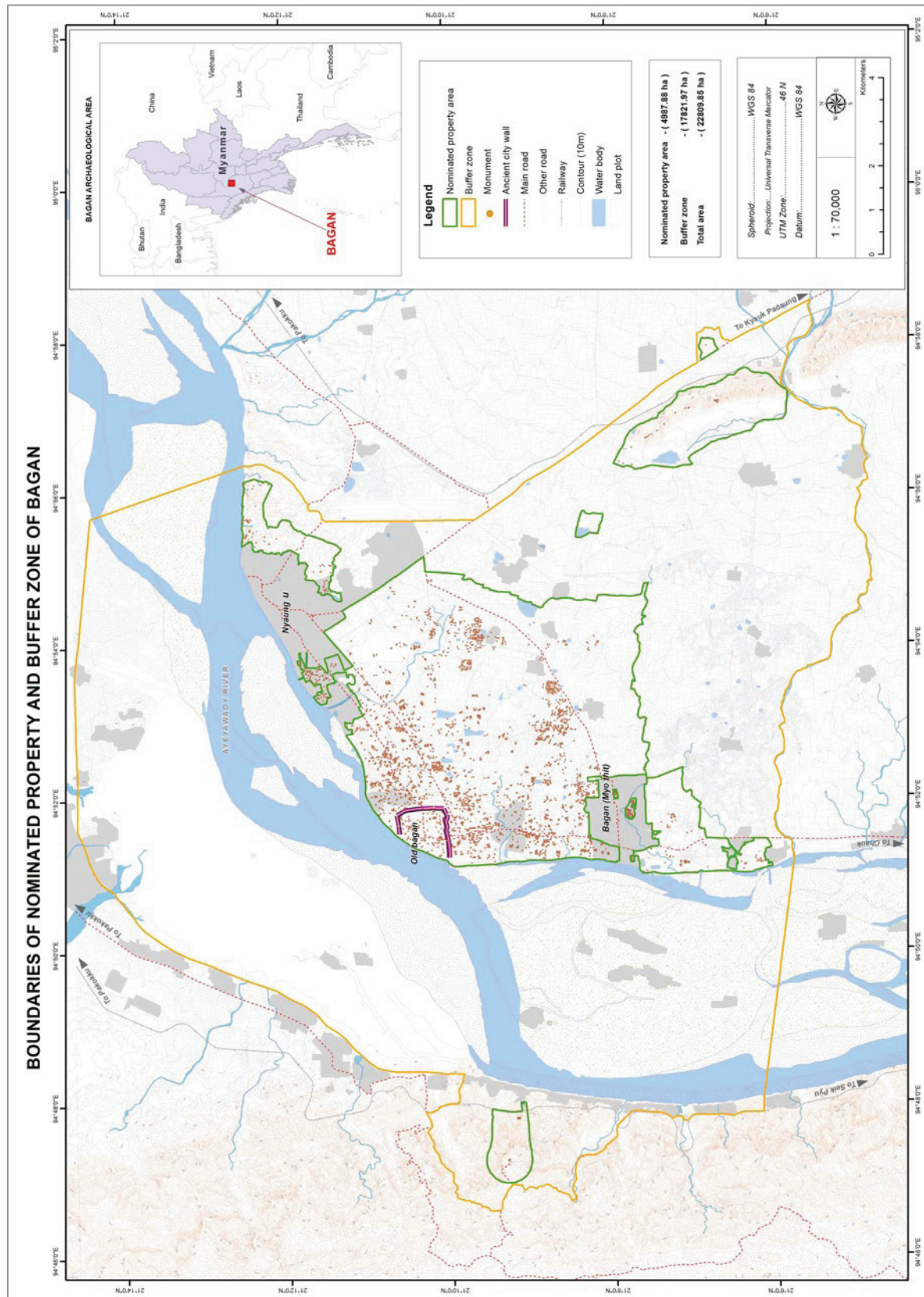
The nominated property is a serial nomination of 8 components.

The boundaries of each component have been determined on the basis of ensuring the attributes of potential Outstanding Universal Value have been included, and in an area of

adequate size. This has also been influenced by the protective designation of the property under the *Law on the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage Regions 1998* (Amended 2009), *Protection and Preservation of Ancient Monuments Law 2015* and the related bylaw, and by the available effective management for the property. As such, the boundaries include all of the monuments and other attributes necessary to convey the significance and characteristics of each component as it contributes to the complete expression of the potential Outstanding Universal Value, including its integrity and authenticity.

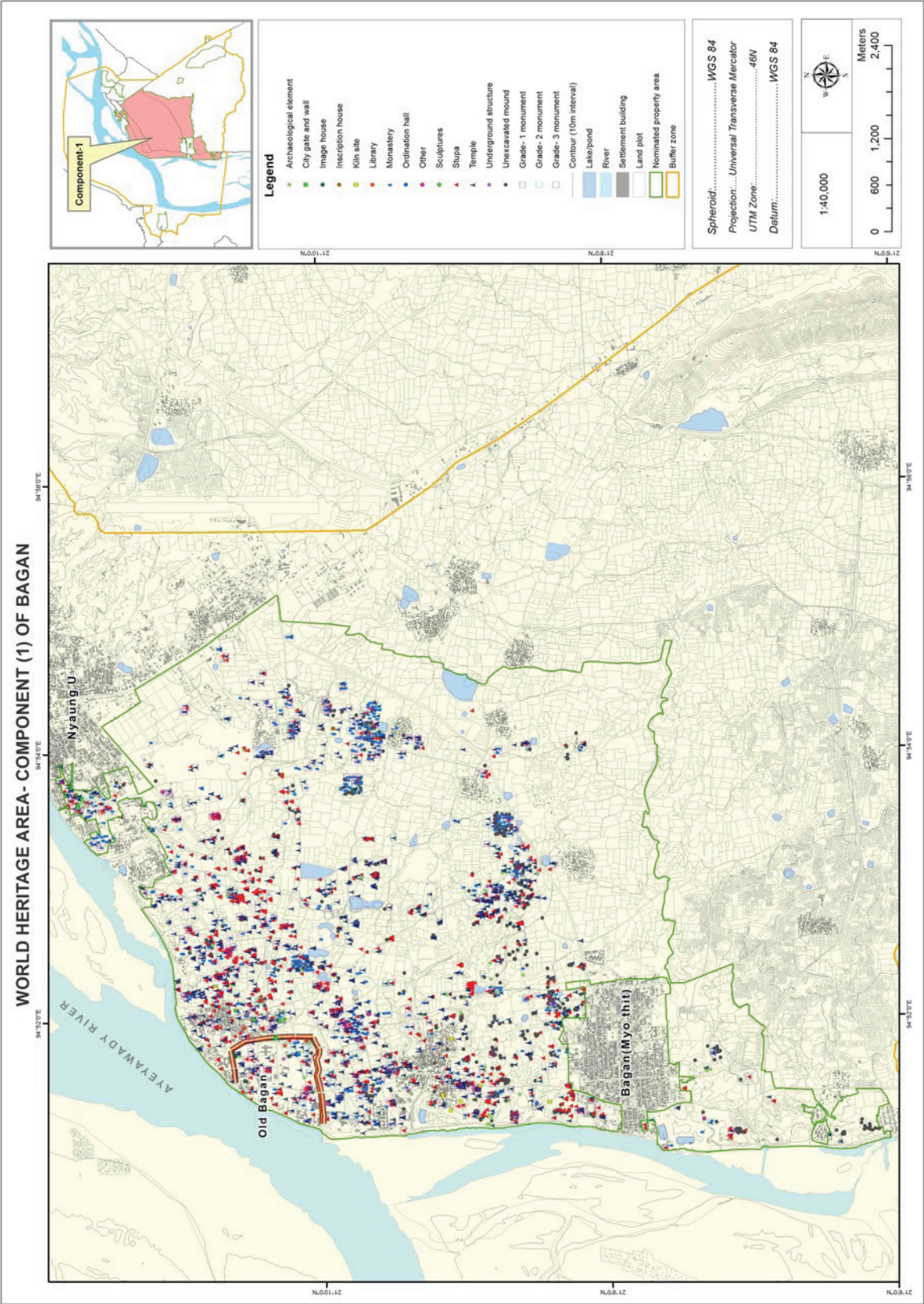
The buffer zone boundary has been determined in order to provide a sufficient area within which to control development or other factors that might have a negative impact on the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the property. These boundaries have also been influenced by the protective designation existing, and relevant to the buffer zone, under the *Law on the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage Regions 1998* (Amended 2009) and *Protection and Preservation of Ancient Monuments Law 2015* and the related bylaw.

A3 and A4 sized maps of the nominated property, showing boundaries and buffer zone



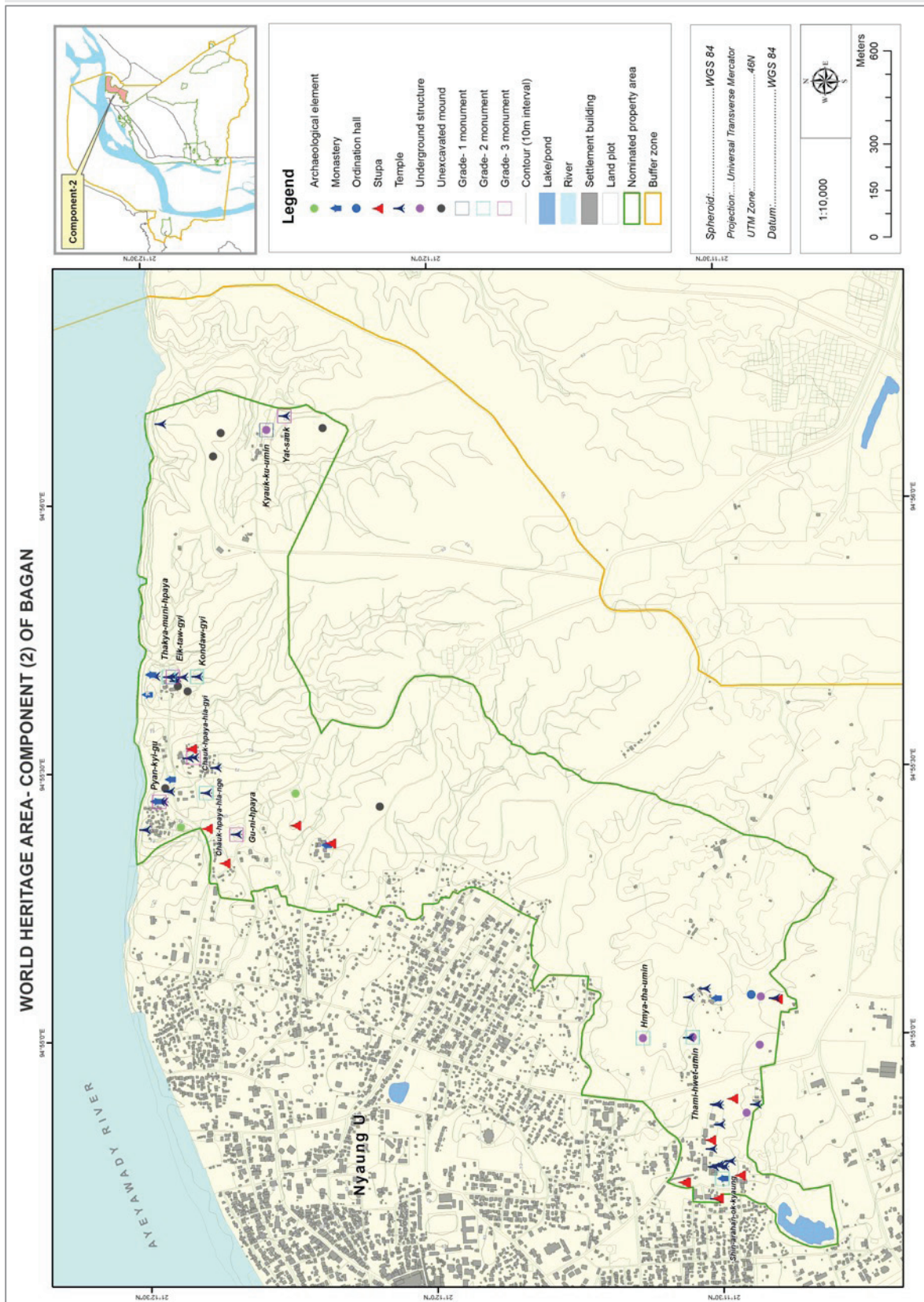
Bagan – Component 1

Source: Department of Archaeology and National Museum



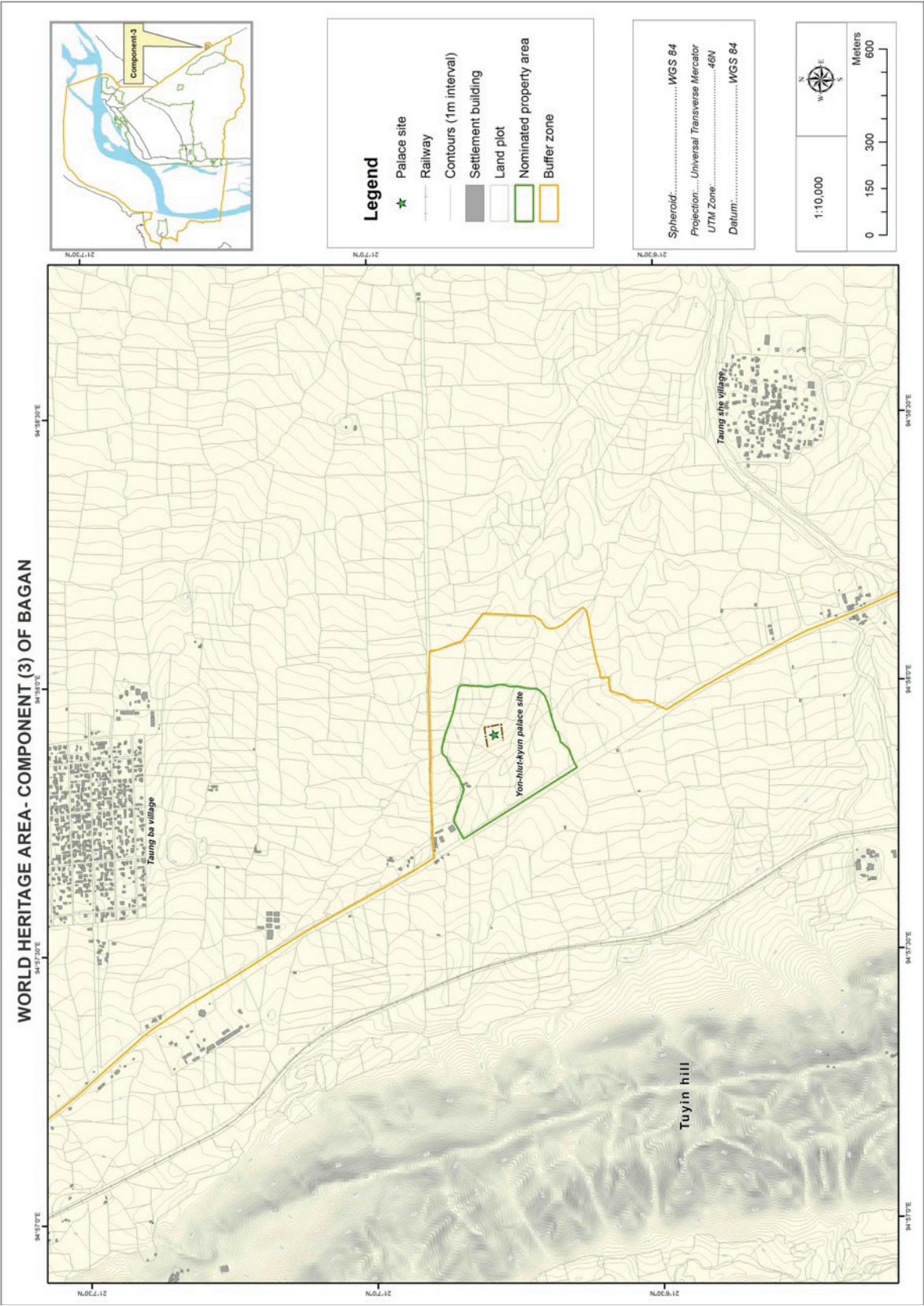
Bagan – Component 2

Source: Department of Archaeology and National Museum



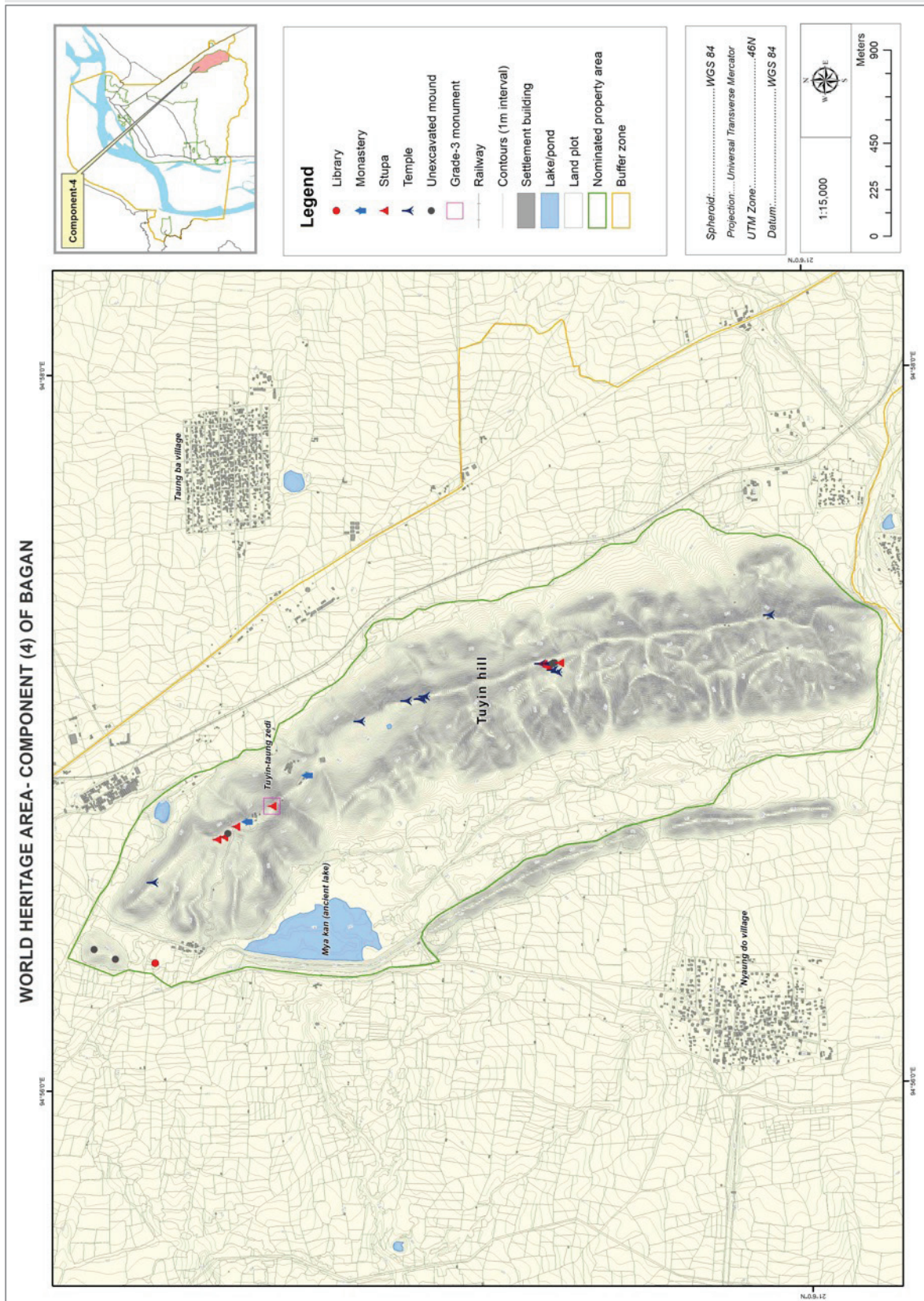
Bagan – Component 3

Source: Department of Archaeology and National Museum

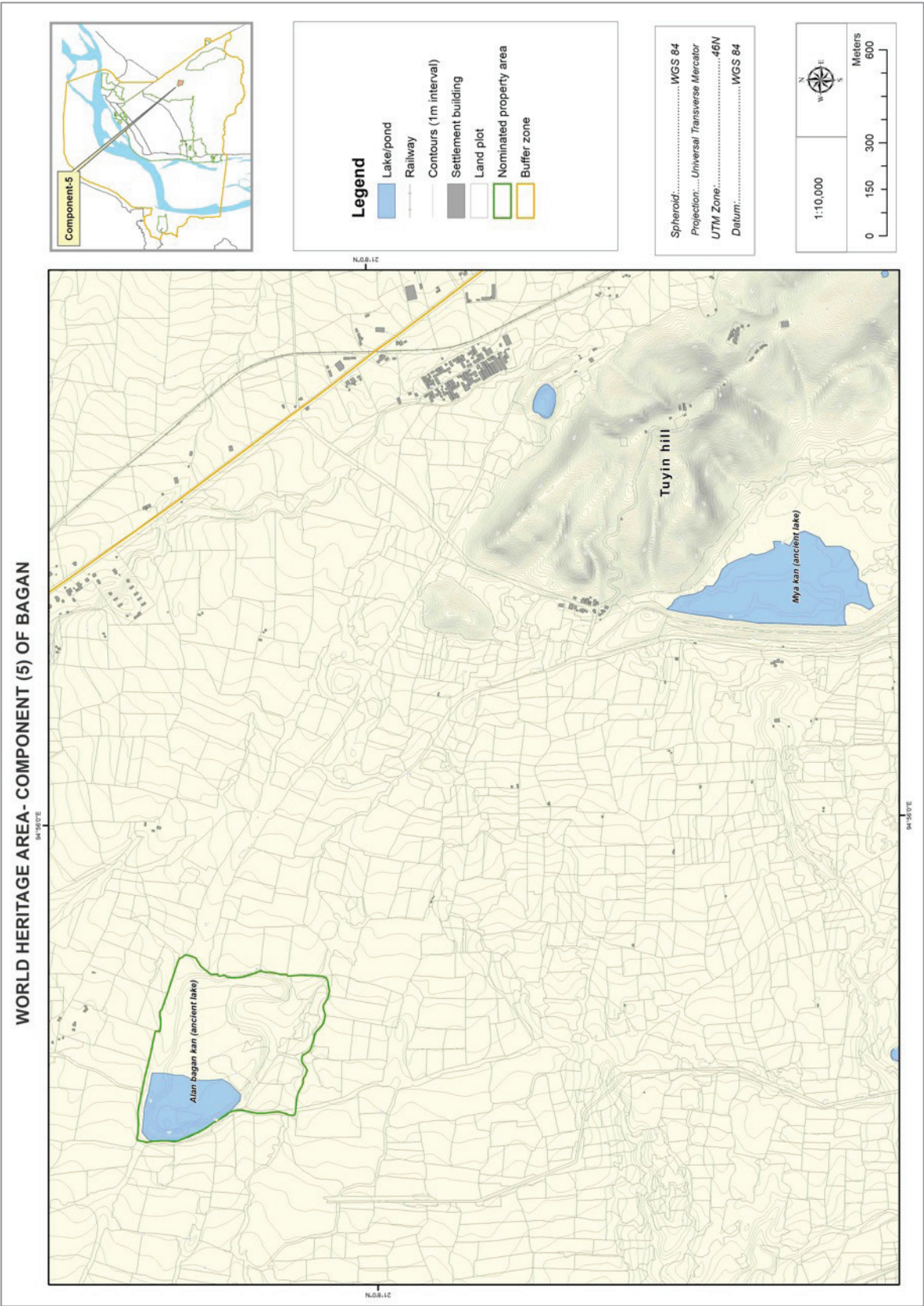


Bagan – Component 4

Source: Department of Archaeology and National Museum

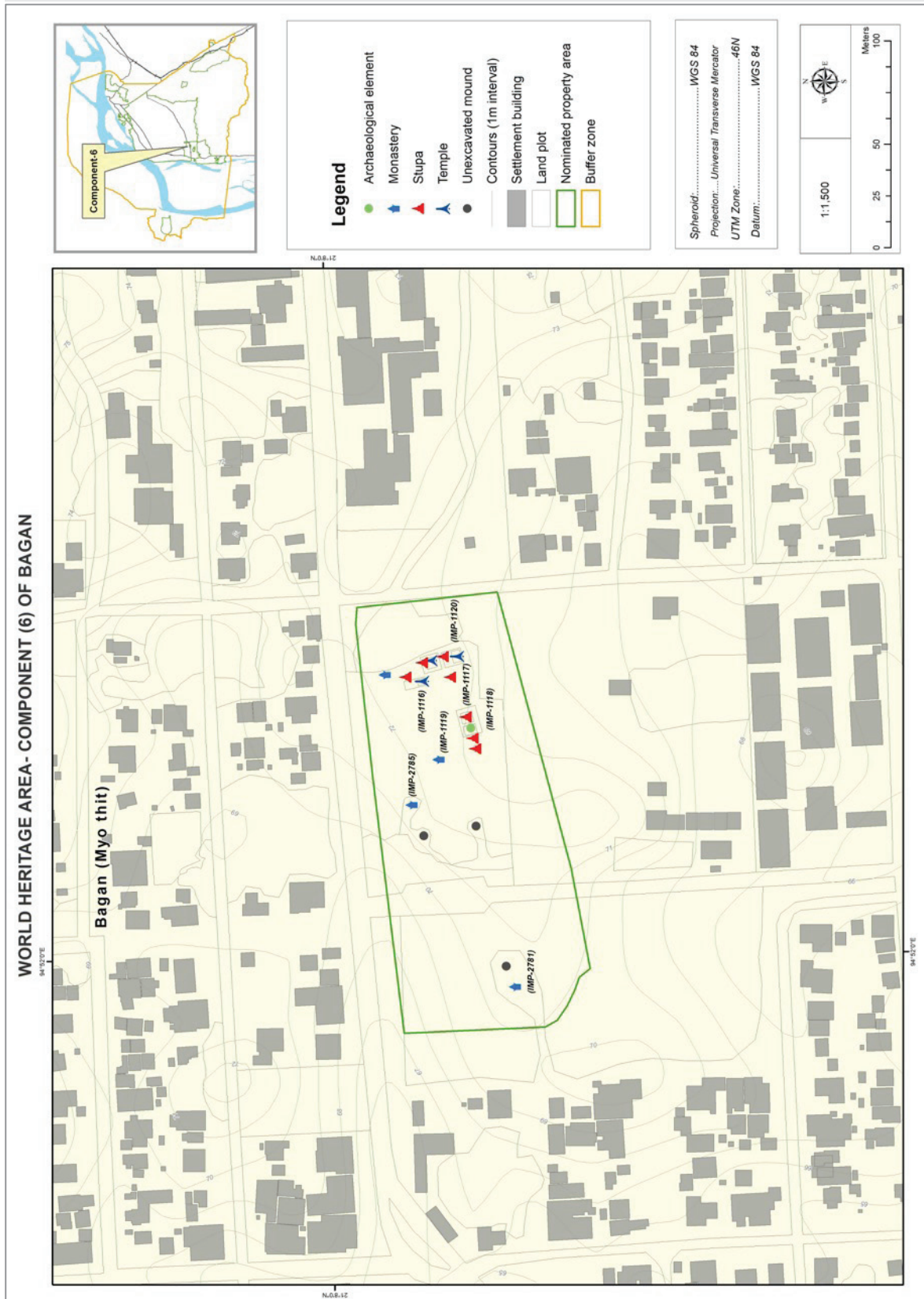


Bagan – Component 5
Source: Department of Archaeology and National Museum



Bagan – Component 6

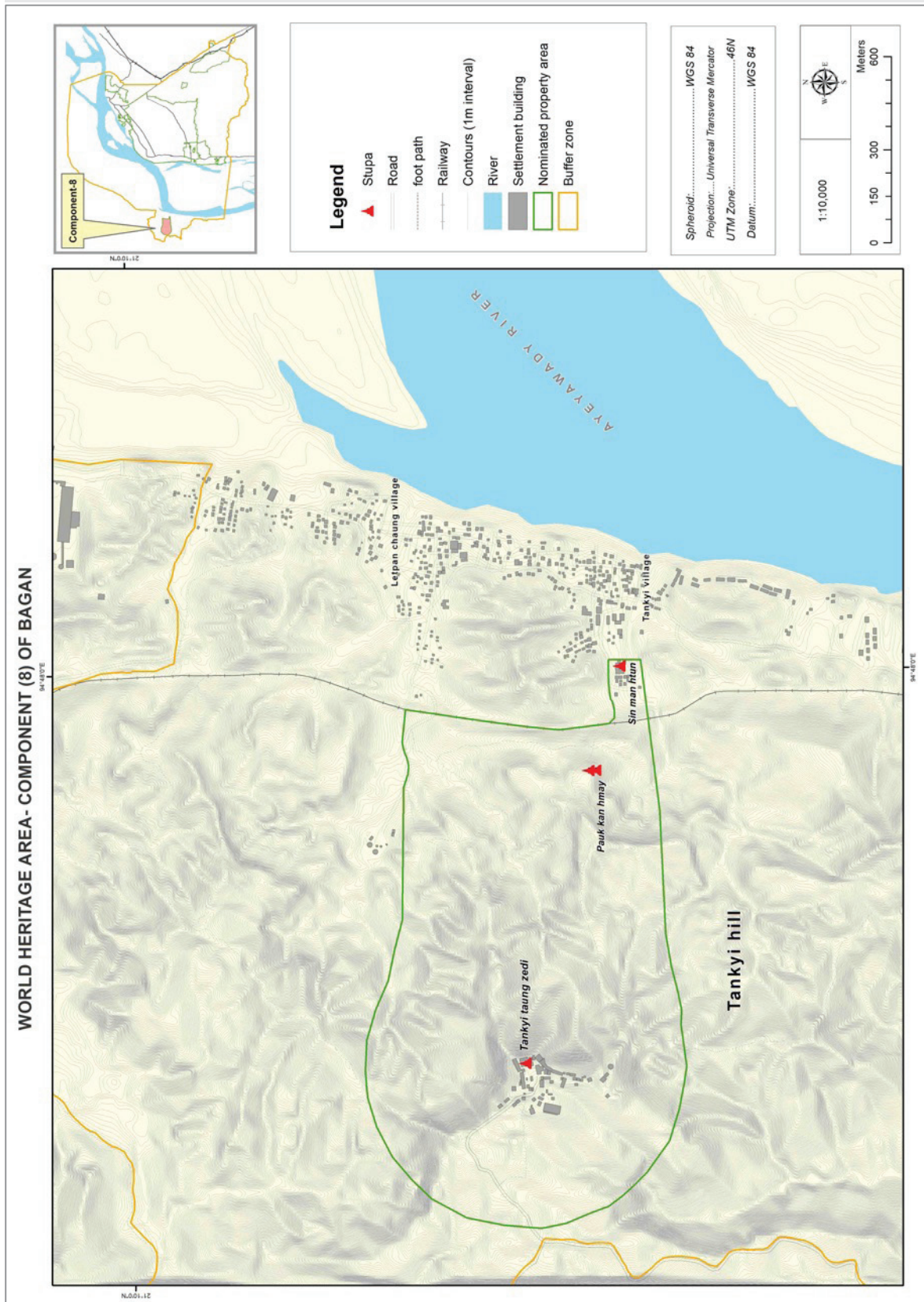
Source: Department of Archaeology and National Museum





Bagan – Component 8

Source: Department of Archaeology and National Museum



Criteria under which property is nominated (itemize criteria)

The property is nominated under Criteria (iii), (iv) and (vi).

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief Synthesis

Bagan is an extensive landscape of monuments and other features located on the Ayeyarwady River in the central dry zone of Myanmar. It is a serial property of one major component and seven smaller components. Spreading over a vast plane, the river and the hills frame the landscape. The traditional boundary of Bagan is reflected by four corner stupas which are associated with the founding of Bagan and its empire.

Bagan was the heart of the largest Buddhist empire of its time, the centre of an economic, socio-political and cultural network in active exchange with other parts of the wider region. With its peak period being from the 11th to the 13th Centuries CE, and it was the primary focus of religious activity in this period – the Bagan Period.

The Buddhist tradition of merit-making was a powerful force in the creation of Bagan. It was during the Bagan period that merit-making became integral with Myanmar Buddhist culture. It remains central to Myanmar Buddhism today. This includes support for the sangha (monastic community), as well as festivals, celebrations, rituals and contributions made to the maintenance, repair and reconstruction of monuments.

After the decline of the empire and the shift of power to other centres, Buddhist patronage continued at Bagan albeit at a diminished scale. The civilisation's religious, legal and administrative systems were maintained in the shift of power to later capitals.

Bagan includes 3,595 surviving monuments set in the landscape (stupas, temples, monasteries, ordination halls, a palace site and fortifications, sometimes as part of complexes, associated inscriptions, sculptures, murals and cloth paintings, and associated objects), as well as archaeological deposits and water management features.

The property incorporates 7 villages or parts of them, and parts of two towns. Continuing and strong Buddhist culture pervades the daily lives of the local community.

Criterion (iii) – Bagan is exceptional and continuing testimony on an impressive and unprecedented scale of the significant cultural tradition of Buddhist merit-making, and also as the pre-eminent testimony to the peak of the Bagan civilisation in the 11th-13th centuries CE as the capital of a powerful and influential regional empire.

Criterion (iv) – Bagan is outstanding as the most extraordinary, rich and creative ensemble of monumental Buddhist architecture in the region, reflecting the strength of religious devotion and wealth of this early major Buddhist empire, and to centuries of continuous religious commitment.

Criterion (vi) – Bagan is a supreme example of the fundamental historical and living Buddhist tradition of and beliefs associated with merit-making, expressed through the remarkable scale, number and density of Bagan's architectural and archaeological ensemble consisting of surviving stupas, temples and monasteries, and continuing religious activities.

The attributes of the property comprise the overall setting of Bagan (hills, vast plane, river and corner stupas), the landscape of monuments, the monuments themselves, inscriptions in many forms, murals and cloth paintings, sculptures, religious practices, the Old Bagan wall, a palace site, water management features, archaeological deposits, and objects held at the museum and elsewhere within the property.

Integrity

The property includes all of the attributes needed to express the potential Outstanding Universal Value of Bagan, and it is of adequate size. The overall historical structure of Bagan survives in the form of the river, the four corner stupas (two located on hills) and the collection of monuments within this area. It also includes the pre-eminent and very large collection of monuments set in the landscape from the Bagan period, and associated inscriptions, murals, cloth paintings and sculptures. This represents the main surviving evidence of the ancient capital.

Bagan is remarkable for the extent and condition of its surviving evidence, even though a range of factors have changed or diminished this evidence over time, including earthquakes, deterioration and losses, periodic reconstruction as part of merit-making, poor conservation works, removal of cultural property and modern developments. Decorative finishes and architectural details of monuments have been especially affected.

Merit-making practices elaborated in the Bagan period within both the local and wider community are in good health and robust. Although there is some concern about the growing extent of modern entertainment activities associated with annual temple festivals and other religious events.

Pressures include new tourism and township developments, new and upgraded infrastructure, exotic tree plantings, and potentially changes to agricultural practices.

Authenticity

The surviving monuments, archaeological remains, continuing religious practices and other attributes truthfully and credibly express the potential Outstanding Universal Value of Bagan. The attributes of the overall setting of Bagan, the river and corner stupas, as well as the large surviving population of monuments express the general form of ancient Bagan.

Considered individually, the large proportion of surviving major monuments and their decorative elements such as sculptures, stucco, murals and cloth paintings are also largely original in terms of location, form, design and materials. These monuments truthfully express the full splendour, creativity and technological achievements of the Bagan Period.

The stone and ink inscriptions are original in all respects and are truthful and credible testimony of merit-making, of Bagan as an ancient capital, and of its later history.

The fortifications and palace site at Old Bagan, other archaeological remains and the water management features are truthful and credible evidence of the civilisation.

The objects relocated to the Bagan Archaeological Museum (eg. sculptures and inscriptions) retain authenticity in terms of form, design and materials, and while removed from their specific original locations, they remain within Bagan overall. Other objects are located at temples.

The site has retained its authenticity in terms of use and function as a place of worship and continuous religious practices, especially merit-making which has ensured that the monumental landscape has been sustained over centuries.

Generalised design features used in modern restorations and fully rebuilt monuments have been criticised in the past. None the less, these monuments are authentic in terms of the use, function and spirit of Bagan, connected to Buddhist merit-making, and the fully rebuilt monuments contribute to the authenticity of the general form of ancient Bagan at a landscape scale.

Management and Protection Requirements

The potential Outstanding Universal Value of Bagan is fully protected under the *Law on the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage Regions 1998* (Amended 2009), *Protection and Preservation of Ancient Monuments Law 2015* and the *Protection and Preservation of Antique Objects Law 2015* and related bylaws. These laws are effectively administered by the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

The overall management of Bagan is achieved through an Integrated Management Framework and Plan of Action which addresses institutional and legal frameworks, resourcing, coordination and monitoring. The framework also includes bylaws for conservation principles, building bylaws, rectification and development guidelines, as well as tourism, disaster risk management and regional planning. The framework is effectively overseen at the national level by Bagan National Coordinating Committee (BAGANCOM) and is implemented by a wide range of responsible committees and agencies. The property manager is the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

Long term management expectations include: strengthened community understanding and support; enhanced conservation of monuments especially in response to earthquake damage; removal or mitigation of adverse developments; harmonious tourism development; and increased monitoring and conservation capacity.

Name and contact information of official local institution/agency

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